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COLUMBIA STEEL ERECTS BIG PLANT TWO MILLION DOLLAR SHEET MILL TO HIRE 400 MEN; WORK UNDER WAY

Officials of the Columbia Steel Corporation announced today plans for the immediate construction of a huge sheet metal mill on the company's Torrance property. The plant will be in operation about June 1, 1927 and will give employment to 400 men, 85 percent of whom will be skilled workers.

First excavations for the plant already have been made and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

The announcement was made by D. H. Botchford, general manager and vice-president of the company, N. A. Becker, general superintendent and W. L. Booth, manager of the Torrance plant. Mr. Botchford, Mr. Becker and Mr. Booth selected the site for the new plant today and work was started at once.

The new mill will have a capacity of 3500 tons and will be constructed for the manufacture of black, blue and galvanized sheets. All sizes and gauges will be made. It will be a six-mill plant, covering about 160,000 square feet.

The new plant will also necessitate the addition of one new 50-ton

open hearth furnace. There are now two of these furnaces in operation at the company's Torrance plant.

The company's new Torrance sheet plant will be modern in all particulars and will serve to make Torrance known throughout the country as the steel city of Southern California.

The history of the Columbia Steel in Torrance has been one of constant expansion, but today's announcement is considered the most important industrial news that has developed in this city in years.

In announcing immediate construction of the big plant Mr. Botchford said, "A sheet plant requires more skilled workmen than any other type of steel mill. Eighty-five percent of the men will be skilled. Naturally we want our employes to live in Torrance and will do all in our power to induce them to do so. We sincerely hope that announcement of the new plant will not serve to raise rentals and land values above the ability of workmen to live in the city where they work."

W. L. Booth, manager of the local plant added that the company will actively co-operate with the community in inducing the workmen in the new plant to take of residence in Torrance.